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STATE SENATOR

Testimony on Senate Bill 293
Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, Biotechnology,
and Financial Institutions
Wednesday, November 4, 2009
10:30 AM
411 South
State Capitol

Thank you Chairman Sullivan and committee members for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 293.

This legislation celebrates and honors members of the United States Armed Forces by designating March 25 of each year as Medal of Honor Day. This day was chosen because the first Medals of Honor were presented on March 25, 1863.

The Medal of Honor is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry above and beyond the call of duty while: engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. Only 3,447 Medals of Honor have been presented, 61 of which were to Wisconsin citizens.

Congress designated March 25 of each year as the National Medal of Honor Day in 2007. Unfortunately, despite an annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, little tribute has been made at the state and local level to commemorate individuals who have received this distinguished honor.

This legislation not only honors Wisconsin's Medal of Honor recipients and recognize their bravery and sacrifice for the United States, but raise awareness across the state about the significance and meaning of the Medal of Honor.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I hope that you will vote in favor of recognizing our Medal of Honor recipients.